

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

**Guide to Collection**

**Nowell, Frank H.**

**Frank H. Nowell Photograph Collection, 1901-1908**

**PCA 48**

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### **Biographical Note**

Frank H. Nowell was born Feb. 19, 1864 in Portsmouth, NH. He joined his father, Thomas Nowell, in their mining company, the Boston and Alaska Mining Company (later, the Nowell gold Mining Co.), on Douglas Island, Alaska, in 1886, where he performed the jobs of wholesaler, accountant, banker, agent, and manager. He married Elizabeth Helen Davis of Detroit, MI, and they moved to the west coast where he became purchasing agent for his father's company in Juneau.

By this time Frank had developed an interest in photography. He returned to Juneau, then went to Nome and worked for the Ames Mercantile Company. In 1900 he moved to Teller, Alaska, to open a branch of the company. Eventually he returned to Nome and opened a photograph studio. In 1907, Frank Nowell and six other photographers published a nine volume set of photograph booklets entitled, "The Art Work of Seattle and Alaska." During 1909, Nowell served as official photographer of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle. Subsequently, he established a photograph studio in Seattle which he operated for twenty-five years. He retired to his ranch near Seattle where he lived until his death in 1950 at the age of 86.[From: "Frank H. Nowell," by Donald Deschner, Alaska Review, vol. 3 p. 193-201.]

### **Scope and Contents**

The subject matter of his photographs includes ethnic (Indians, Eskimos), portraits (mostly commercial but important historical personalities), scenic (including cities, towns, and military posts), and historical events.

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59. Eagle Hall, erected 1906. Nome, Alaska. Sept. 30th, 1906. (no.5254) [Close up view]
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61. Herr Oscar Iden - Zeller. The first white man to cross the Tsshaan Mtns. Siberia, on foot, 1905. (no.4346) [Portrait of Iden-Zeller, seated wearing fur parka, mitts and boots, pipe in mouth, holding a long fur trimmed cane? fur bag at his side]

62. Parisian Dye Works. Wile and Gardner, props. Nome, Alaska, Oct. 14th, 1906. (no.5296) [Two men standing at doorway, a third man at right of photograph on front of display window ]
63. Holy Cross Hospital, Nome, Alaska. (no.5564) [front view, with boy standing at bottom of right staircase and two girls peeking out a ground floor window]
64. Lightering Passengers from "S.S. Victoria" July 2nd., 1907 (no.5432 ½) Passengers and baggage crowded on flat bottom barge NCL Co. No. 6. Two steamers and navigation light in view]
65. Party on board S.S. PRESIDENT enroute to Nome, Alaska. June 11th, 1907 (no.5408) [men and women seated on deck]
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68. Three Friends Mining Co.'s dredge and tailing pile, October 1, 1905. (no.4510)
69. Three Friends Mining Co., Solomon River, Alaska October 1st, 1905. (no.4511) [Dredge and tailings in view]
70. [Arctic whaler, perhaps the ALEXANDER?, trapped in ice]
71. Snowdrifts near Grand Central Pass on Seward Peninsula, R.R. Nome, Alaska. June 20th, 1907. [Four men standing on railroad cars with snow banks on either side]
72. [Portrait of Charles D. Garfield, Collector of Customs at Nome, ca. 1904-1909]
73. Passenger train over Nome River Bridge Seward Peninsula [Railway]. Nome, Alaska (no.4984) [Passengers and baggage on flat car attached to one engine, logs on flat car attached to second engine approaching from opposite direction]
74. Largest nuggets ever found in Alaska. Owned by Pioneer Mining Co. from Anvik Creek, Nome 1904. [Three nuggets left weight 108 oz., value \$1998., center weight 182 oz., value \$3367; right weight 97 oz. value \$1794.001]
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78. Excursion party on Bering Sea one mile from shore, Nome, Alaska, Feb. 25, 1906. (No. 5357?)
79. Excursion party on Bering Sea one mile from shore, Nome, Alaska, Feb. 25, 1906. [Includes people standing on ice flow and 2 dog teams.] (No. 4606).
80. Excursion party on Bering Sea one mile from shore, Nome, Alaska, Feb. 25, 1906. Similar view.
81. Same title, lacks clarity in part of view.
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84. Winter dumps on Little Creek, Nome, Alaska, April 22, 1906. [Mining camp.] (No. 4722).
85. Winter dumps on Little Creek, Nome, Alaska, in the distance, April 22, 1906. (No. 4726).
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87. A. B. Hall decorated for the Easter Ball, Nome, Alaska, April 1st, 1907. (No. 5342).
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90. East dump of the Alra Mining Co.
91. Cooks and dishwashers of the Alra Mining Co., members of Third Beach, Union no. 1 - Independent [group by buildings and tent.]
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93. Nowell Photo Studio, Nome, Alaska. unsigned.
94. Ice jam on waterfront, Nome, Alaska, Jan. 5th, 1907, [showing stores and buildings in background.] (No. 5304).
95. Ground sluicing winter dump of SOiffert and Gibson, Nome, May 1908. [Seven men on mound of dirt, hosing it down into a sluicebox.] (No. 6015).

96. [Two rows of men dressed in business suits. The name of each man is printed on the photo. Judge Wickersham in center of first row.] (No. 6204).
97. [Herd of reindeer, one man and dog in background.]
98. [Left profile of Eskimo man wearing a fur parka with fur tote bag on back.] (No. 4311).
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100. Scotty Allen returning from Valdez loaded with telephones for the Alaska Cooperative Telephone Co., Nome, Alaska, April 16, 1906. [Team of dogs at rest with man behind sled.] (No. 4720).
101. "There's always something doing." 1906, Nome, Alaska. [Two men winding a winch; loaded pail near surface.] (No. 4739).
102. Albert Fink's dog team, Nome, Alaska. [Team of dogs with 2 men beside sled.] (No. 4801).
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104. Capt. "Amundsen" arrives in Nome, Aug. 31, 1906 on his ship "Gjoa" after 3 years in Arctic. Determined Magnetic Pole and found Northwest Passage, 1906. [Ship with men on deck, all sails down.] (No. 5161).
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106. Bar formed by storm Sept. 18, 1920 [1906], showing lowest water ever known in Nome. [Nome buildings to left of shore.] (No. 5223).
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111. [Darling and Dean Hardware Store with delivery wagon in front. Group of men between store and wagon.] Nome, July 20, 1907. (No. 5426).
112. [Group of men in front of Darling and Dean store.] Nome, Alaska, July 20, 1907. (No. 5427).
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116. Reindeer at John J. Sesman Co.'s docks. Nome, Alaska, Oct. 28th 1907. [Man dressed in cloth parka holding reins of 2 reindeer.] (No. 5924).
117. [Full face portrait of Eskimo woman weaving fur parka; tattoos visible from mouth to chin.] (No. 5962).
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119. Walrus hunters in Bering Sea. [Four men standing beside several walrus; one man with a knife, another a gun.] (No. 5966.)
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123. [Highway crossing over Nome River where old railroad crossed. An unsigned Nowell photo.]
124. [Group of seven men holding harpoons and rifles, on and by a captured walrus. Kayak to right of walrus. 1908.]
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126. Dutch Harbor, Alaska. [Picture taken from the water; buildings to the left; two sailing vessels at dock.]

127. Bird's-eye view of Unalaska. [Buildings of Unalaska on far side of the beach, including Russian Church.]

*The following 10 pictures (#128 through #137) are from the Bancroft Library collection and may not be reproduced without permission from that library.*

128. [Early Fairbanks showing stores along the Chena Slough. Logs in background.] (#6145)
129. [Early Fairbanks showing stores and homes along the Chena Slough. Continuation of #128] (#6146)
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133. Siwash Chief, Ft. Wrangle, Alaska. [Portrait - full face] (#476)
134. Auk - Si - Eager, Ft. Wrangle [Wrangell], Ak. 1904. [Indian woman seated on a box decorated with designs, totem behind her] (#477)
135. Yukaskin and Datoat, Wrangle [Wrangell], 1904. [Two Indian women seated on a wooden walk.] (#478)
136. Skak - ish - stin, 108 years old. 1904. [Full length portrait of Skag ish - stin seated in a doorway]
137. Bess Rodin and log [structure] Juneau. [Woman seated in doorway of log cabin surrounded by tree stumps and hillside. Dog to right of cabin] (#488)
138. [Group of 23 Eskimo women and children in front of white tent.] #1147.
139. Siberian Eskimo and Mazinka House, Whaten(?), Siberia [Eight women and children beside large skin house]. #1052.
140. "Too many cooks spoil the B\_\_\_\_" [three Eskimo women and a baby cooking over an open fire; tents and buildings beyond]. 1904. #1049
141. Kow-Ear-Nuk [Eskimo woman standing on beach with fish on rack behind her]. 1905. #4076.
142. Eskimos Natural Pack [five women, with backs to camera, carrying babies in parkas]. 1905. #4091.

143. Indian Witch Doctor [or Sha-man] healing a sick woman [woman lying on furs; man in nature costume kneeling beside her]. Photo print by Nowell of Case and Draper photo. 1906.
144. The queen of Siberia and her house in Whaten(?), Siberia [young woman seated, right, beside tent. Three men to her left]. 1907.
145. McKinley St. Valdez, Alaska [wooden buildings on either side of dirt street; people on planked sidewalk]. #495.
146. [Full length, full face portrait of young Eskimo man wearing fur parka, hat and boots.] #4414.
147. Dyer and Keen's record trip from Seattle to Nome, Alaska in 35 days. April 10th, 1906 [dogs in harness; two men beside-sled]. #4713.
148. U.S. Main team of R.H. Griffie, carrier. Nome, Alaska. Apr. 8th 1905 [two dog teams hitched to sleds; drivers behind each sled]. #4759.
149. A sled reindeer and his driver [driver leading reindeer with rope]. #5314.
150. Broadway, Skagway, Alaska, May 20th, 1898 [teams of horses and people on dirt street]. #2203.
151. U.S.S. Manning and Bear, Eureka Meteor and Oregon. Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Oct. 27th, 1903. [-five ships docked]. #86.
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157. Eighth Anniversary Ball given by Nome Aerie No. 75 Fraternal Order of Eagles. Golden Gate Hall. Tuesday, Feb. 6th, 1906. #4593.
158. F.& A.M. Seventh Annual Ball. Anvil Lodge No. 140. A.B. Hall, Feb. 22d, 1906, Nome, Alaska. #4603.

*Numbers 159-212 were donated by Lorraine Lineer of Sacramento, California in October 1993.*

159. Egg venders from Sledge Island, Nome, Alaska. [three Eskimo men posed with a basket of eggs]. F.H. Nowell. 5496.
160. Eskimo cooking at Corwin Lagoon, Alaska [three Eskimos seated around a cooking stove]. F.H. Nowell. 5111.
161. Eskimo igloo at Whalen, Siberia [group of Eskimos and a white couple posed outside of a skin tent] F.H. Nowell, Nome 1907. 5506
162. Berry Picker [young girl posed with two tubs of berries]. F.H. Nowell. 5627.
163. Alaska Hay Makers [group of people posed around a hay stack]. F.H. Nowell. 5621.
164. Grace Kuzrena. [Portrait.] F.H. Nowell, Nome-1907. 5736.
165. "OBLEKA" [Portrait.] F.H. Nowell, Nome 1907. 5729.
166. Eskimo woman from Cape Prince of Wales. [Mother and child portrait.] F.H. Nowell, Nome, 1907. 5551 ½.
167. Eskimo from Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. [Portrait of a man in parka.] F.H. Nowell, Nome 1907. 5550.
168. OBLEUK [Portrait.] F.H. Nowell, 1907. 5742.
169. Eskimo Child holding down a good thing. [Child holding a small puppy.] F.H. Nowell, Nome 1905. 4121.
170. "Mickaninies Kow-Kow" [Eskimo woman breast feeding two children.] F.H. Nowell, 1904.
171. [Unidentified portrait of a young Eskimo girl, showing a tattooed chin.] Copyright 1905, F.H. Nowell. Nome.
172. [Unidentified portrait of a middle-aged Eskimo woman, showing a tattooed chin.] Copyright 1905 by F.H. Nowell, Nome. 4294
173. "Happy Jack" [Portrait of an Eskimo man dressed in skin parka.] Copyright by F.H. Nowell, 1904. 1021.
174. Two Little Maidens from "The Land of the Midnight Sun." [Two Eskimo women dressed in Kuspuk's pose in front of a rack of dried fish.] Copyright by F.H. Nowell, 1904. 1003.
175. The Queen of Siberia and her home, Whalen, Siberia. [Same as 148-144.] F.H. Nowell, Nome, 1902. 5514.

176. Sunset. -East Cape, Siberia. F.H. Nowell, 1907. 5528.
177. Little and Big Diomed Islands, showing dividing line between America and Asia. [Scenic view of the Diomed Islands with a line indicating the border.] F.H. Nowell, Nome 1907. 5504.
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179. Nome Bragg Band. Nome, Sept. 28, 1907. [Group posed on Front Street in Nome, holding instruments and signs reading "Eagles Hall Grand Benefit..."] F.H. Nowell, 5796.
180. [Unidentified locomotive wedged between snow drifts, Nome?]
181. A miner's cabin in winter. Nome, Alaska. [A makeshift tent with a chimney, buried in snow drifts.] F.H. Nowell. 5309.
182. Among the ice. Jan. 5th 1902. [Two men and one young boy posed amidst the snow in Nome?] F.H. Nowell, 5301.
183. Wreck of Nome Wharf caused by ice- Jan. 4th 1907. [Scene of wreckage of the wharf and ice break up.] F.H. Nowell. 5304 1/2.
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185. 1st Ave. E. Nome, Alaska. Mar. 25th 1907. [Unidentified person dressed in a parka, holding a snowball amidst the snow drifts.] F.H. Nowell. 5332.
186. Nome, Alaska. Winter 1906-07. [View of a house partially submerged in snow.] F.H. Nowell. 5436.
187. Res. of A.J. Daly. Res. of Grant R. Jackson. [Two homes almost completely buried in snow.] 5339.
188. [Nome fire aftermath? No identification.] 5393.
189. Nome Bank and Trust Co's Building. E.B. Fulton, Architect. [View of a building in Nome.] 5322.
190. [Unidentified scene. Nome fire aftermath?]
191. Nome Fire Sept. 13th 1905. [Similar to 188.] F.H. Nowell. 4394.
192. Fink and Smith returning from polar bear hunt in the Arctic. Distance traveled 1000 miles. [View of two dog teams posed on the flats near Nome.] Copyright by F.H. Nowell. Nome 1906. 4691.

193. [Three people posed with a dog team on the ice?]
194. [Dog team posed near ice floes.]
195. [Eskimo man posed with a reindeer.]
196. Eskimos and their Reindeer. [Three men posed with a team of reindeer.] F.H. Nowell. 5311.
197. Alaska Reindeer From Cape Prince of Wales. Nome, Alaska. [Herd of reindeer on the tundra.] F.H. Nowell. 5360.
198. Eskimo graves. Port Clarence, Alaska. Aug. 1906. [Two graves suspended above ground with various personal items attached.] F.H. Nowell. Nome. 5075.
199. S.S. OHIO at Nompatek (?) collision with ice June 12 1907. [View of vessel's stern above the water line.] F.H. Nowell.
200. Winter dump on the "Duplex." Nome, May 21st 1907. [Mining operation scene.] F.H. Nowell. 5380.
201. [Unidentified mining dredge.]
202. Sluicing on the L . Nome, Alaska. May 21st 1907. [Two women with a group of men posed in front of a sluice operation.] F.H. Nowell. 5376.
203. Largest Nuggets Ever Found in Alaska Owned By Pioneer Mining Co., From Anvil Creek. Nome. [View of three gold nuggets.] Copyright 1904. By F.H. Nowell.
204. "Gertrude Mine Nome, Alaska. August 7th, 1906." [Mining operation scene.] F.H. Nowell. 5041.
205. Bessie Mine during injunction. Nome, Alaska Aug. 2 1906. [View of the mine site and dwellings.] F.H. Nowell. 5046.
206. Drill operating on "Tidal Wave" Fraction. July 10, 1907. [View of two men posed next to a drilling machine.] 5460.
207. Cabbage patch at Kuzqamapa Hot Springs, Alaska. July 11, 1907. [View of a large field of cabbage.] F.H. Nowell. 5594.
208. Iron Slough, Hot Springs, Alaska. July 11, 1907. F.H. Nowell. 5584.
209. Vegetable garden and Sawtooth Range at Hot Springs, Alaska. July 11, 1907. F.H. Nowell. 5596.

210. Islands of Volcanic Origin in Bering Sea. [Scenic view of three islands in the Bering Sea.] F.H. Nowell by permission of Dr. Ebert U.S.S. Perry. 5738.
211. Perry Island. Bogosloff [i.e., Bogoslof] Group. Rose in Bering Sea Spring 1906. [Five men posed on a beach in front of a volcano.] F.H. Nowell by permission of Dr. Ebert. U.S.S. Perry. 5718.
212. Moonlight on Bering Sea. Aug. 15th 1905. Copyright 1905 by F.H. Nowell. Nome. [Photo from backlog, no known provenance, added 1/8/2002.] . *[Housed in X-Overize]*
213. [Sled dog team (some dogs appear to be howling) hooked to sled with an empty sled behind the first one. Three natives dressed in furs on sled and standing. Village (Nome?) partially buried by snow in background.] Copyright by F.H. Nowell, Nome, 1906.

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